

Retracing Ancient Migrations

Directions: Use these guiding questions and the [Atlas of the Human Journey](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/genographic/atlas.html) (<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/genographic/atlas.html>) to explore the ways scientists and geographers use context clues to trace migratory patterns as far back as 60,000 B.C.

Guiding Questions

- What context clues or events help us to understand migration patterns during this time?
- How would the Genographic team use this information to further their study?

60,000–50,000 BC:

- What context clues link San to our earliest ancestors?
- How does language link the Hadza to the San?
- How have scientists used context clues to trace an early migration out of Africa and into Australia?

50,000–40,000 BC:

- What context clues are found in New Guinea? How might this information assist Genographic researchers?
- How do natural boundaries such as Pamir Knot play a role in influencing migration patterns?
- What evidence has been found at Qafzeh Cave that gives researchers insight into both modern humans and Neandertals?

40,000–30,000 BC:

- How can scientists use genetics to bring a new perspective to evolutionary theories such as human hybridization?
- How do researchers speculate advancements in hunting tools and the migration of game influenced human migration at this time?
- What clues are left behind in the Basque language about human migration?

30,000–25,000 BC:

- What is the significance of the "Beringia highlight" in the Atlas to the Genographic research team?

25,000–20,000 BC:

- How and why do you think mtDNA haplogroup B migrated into North and South America? How do context clues support your theory?

20,000–15,000 BC:

- Where did the groups that populated North and South America originate? Are there any context clues to support this?
- How did the Ice Age affect human migration? How does having this information assist the Genographic research team?

15,000–10,000 BC:

- What is the significance of Na-Dene speaking populations to the Genographic research team?

- Why does the Monte Verde site (in South America) generate controversy about human migration to the Americas? In what way do contextual clues help to create or solve this controversy?

10,000–5,000 BC:

- What can we learn about migration through Archaic culture?
- How might the beginning of agriculture have affected human migration?